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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/514,460	02/28/2000	Neta Amit	1018.073US1	8502

23460 7590 05/31/2005

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CHICAGO, IL 60601-6780

EXAMINER
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BOUTAH, ALINA A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2143

DATE MAILED: 05/31/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/514,460

Applicant(s)

AMIT ET AL.

Examiner

Alina N Boutah

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 February 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 23-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 23-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____  |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other:  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

This action is in response to Applicant's amendment received February 18, 2005. Claims 23-27 are pending in the present application.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 23, 25, 26 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,058,389 issued to Chandra et al. (hereinafter referred to as Chandra) in view of USPN 6,094,694 issued to Hickson et al. (hereinafter referred to as Hickson).

Regarding claim 23, Chandra teaches a method for a sender to guarantee an exactly once delivery of a message to a receiver, the method comprising:

associating an expiration time with the message (figure 4B; col. 8, line 60 to col. 9, line 2);

associating an identifier with the message (figure 4B; col. 8, line 60 to col. 9, line 2);

storing the message in association with the expiration time and with the identifier (figure 4B).

However, Chandra fails to teach sending to the receiver the message in association with the expiration time and with the identifier; and upon reaching the expiration time, if the message has not been deleted, then deleting the message along with the identifier and the expiration time associated with the message, the deleting being performed by a scavenger thread of the sender.

Although Hickson does not explicitly teach sending an identifier in association with the expiration time to the receiver, he teaches receiving the expiration time, and the message from a receiver (Abstract; col. 2, line 58 to col. 3, line 9; col. 4, lines 33-39) and in order for the receiver to receive the message and its components, it must be sent by a sender. Also, although Hickson does not expressly teach receiving the identifier, it is well known in the art that in a conventional computer system, all messages have some kind of identifier.

Hickson also teaches upon reaching the expiration time, if the message has not been deleted, then deleting the message along with the identifier and the expiration time associated with the message (col. 2, lines 31-39; line 58 to col. 3, line 9). Although Hickson does not explicitly disclose the deletion being performed by a “scavenger thread,” he discloses a process that checks whether a message is expired and deletes any expired message (figure 3). In this case, this process is interpreted as a “scavenger thread” because it performs substantially the same function to reach substantially same result.

At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in art would have been motivated to combine the teaching of Hickson with the teaching of Chandra by deleting expired messages in order to free up storage for the receipt of more messages (col. 2, lines 34-35), thus increasing the system’s efficiency.

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Claim 25 is similar to claim 23, therefore is rejected under the same rationale.

Regarding claim 26, Chandra teaches a method for a receiver to guarantee an exactly once delivery of a message from a sender, the method comprising:

receiving the message in association with an expiration time and with an identifier (figure 4B; col. 8, line 60 to col. 9, line 2). However, Chandra fails to teach: if the expiration time has passed, then discarding the message and the associated expiration time and identifier; else if the identifier is associated with another message already received by the receiver, then discarding the message and the associated expiration time and identifier; else storing the message in association with the expiration time and with the identifier, performing an action associated with a content of the message and upon reaching the expiration time, if the message has not been deleted, then deleting the message along with the identifier and the expiration time associated with the message, the deleting being performed by a scavenger thread of the receiver.

Hickson teaches if the expiration time has passed, then discarding the message and the associated expiration time and identifier (col. 2, lines 31-39; line 58 to col. 3, line 9);

else if the identifier is associated with another message already received by the receiver, then discarding the message and the associated expiration time and identifier (col. 2, lines 31-39; line 58 to col. 3, line 9);

else storing the message in association with the expiration time and with the identifier, performing an action associated with a content of the message and upon reaching the expiration time, if the message has not been deleted, then deleting the message along with the identifier and the expiration time associated with the message (col. 2, lines 31-39; line 58 to col. 3, line 9).

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Although Hickson does not explicitly disclose the deletion being performed by a “scavenger thread,” he discloses a process that checks whether a message is expired and deletes any expired message (figure 3). In this case, this process is interpreted as a “scavenger thread” because it performs substantially the same function to reach substantially same result.

At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in art would have been motivated to combine the teaching of Hickson with the teaching of Chandra by deleting expired messages in order to free up storage for the receipt of more messages (col. 2, lines 34-35), thus increasing the system’s efficiency.

Claim 28 is similar to claim 26, therefore is rejected under the same rationale.

Claims 23-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chandra in view Hickson in further view of USPN 6,282,565 issued to Shaw.

Regarding claims 24 and 27, Chandra fails to teach the method of claim 23 further comprising: receiving from the receiver an acknowledgement of receipt of the message; and deleting the message along with the identifier and the expiration time associated with the message. Hickson teaches deleting the message along with the identifier and the expiration time associated with the message (col. 2, lines 31-39; line 58 to col. 3, line 9).

Shaw teaches sending an acknowledgement message from the receiver to the sender that corresponds to the message (col. 3, lines 47-52). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to send an acknowledgment message from

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the receiver to the sender that corresponds to the message in order to let the sender know that it has received the message, therefore preventing the sender to send the same message again.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 23-28 have been considered but are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's arguments, the recitation "a method for a sender to guarantee an exactly once delivery of a message to a receiver" has not been given patentable weight because the recitation occurs in the preamble. A preamble is generally not accorded any patentable weight where it merely recites the purpose of a process or the intended use of a structure, and where the body of the claim does not depend on the preamble for completeness but, instead, the process steps or structural limitations are able to stand alone. See *In re Hirao*, 535 F.2d 67, 190 USPQ 15 (CCPA 1976) and *Kropa v. Robie*, 187 F.2d 150, 152, 88 USPQ 478, 481 (CCPA 1951).

### ***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

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will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

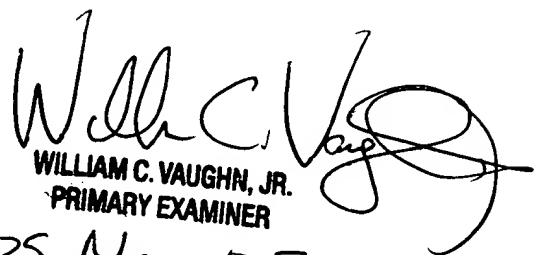
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alina N. Boutah whose telephone number is 571-272-3908. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (9:00 am - 5:00 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on 571-272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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WILLIAM C. VAUGHN, JR.  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
25 May 05